



# The Observer

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## Class takes trip to the past

### *Political Science majors visit historic Lincoln sites*

By MaryKate Hresil  
*News Writer*

On Wednesday November 13, students from the Political Science department traveled to Springfield, Illinois for a field trip about Abraham Lincoln. Students left campus at six in the morning for a full day of Lincoln history.

The day began with a visit to Lincoln's home on 8th Street. Most of the house is still in its original form or is furnished with items from the time period. Students toured the entire building. The first floor was beautifully ornate, showing off Mary Lincoln's taste for the lavish lifestyle. The second floor housed the bedrooms. Students were able to get a nice feel for Lincoln's lifestyle at home with his wife and children.

The next stop on the trip was the Lincoln-Herndon Law offices, just a short distance away from the house. Students took the short walk there that Lincoln himself walked. There, they got a feel for what Lincoln was like at work. Lincoln was not the most organized person. However, his organizational skills in no way reflected his ability to practice

law. Lincoln was a hard worker and dedicated lawyer. After he established himself, he was one of the most sought out lawyers in the area.

The Lincoln gravesite was the next stop on the list. It proved to be a solemn experience. Lincoln's tomb is ornately decorated; the ceiling in the entrance room is covered in palladium leaf, which at times is worth more than gold. The actual room where his tomb lies, though underground, is in black and white marble with gold leaf on the ceiling. They spared no expense when building this.

The last stop was Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Here the students saw displays of Lincoln's life through history, beginning in his historical log cabin. It went all the way to a White House exhibit where Mary Lincoln's fashion was once again an important topic. Students also watched two movies.

All in all, it was a great day. The trip was for the Political Science Capstone course for juniors and seniors this year. The class, taught by Peter Watkins, focuses on Abraham Lincoln and his presidency.



*Photo courtesy of News Writer Mary Kate Hresil  
Political Science majors MaryKate Hresil, Seth Arthur, Steve Greenwood, Colby Alexis, Calleigh Olson, Donald DeYoung, Victoria Lawson, and Rachael Knoll pose by the famous statue of Lincoln near his tomb.*

## Ground-breaking exhibit, presentation on Medieval Indian Ocean visits campus

By Christine Babick Saqui  
*Director of Integrated Marketing*

On Tuesday, December 3 at 12:30 pm in Evans Arts & Science building 113B, Fulbright Scholar Dr. Kenneth R. Hall from the Dept. of History at Ball State University made a presentation on a document that researchers are using to explore the medieval Indian Ocean world.

The document, according to Associate Professor of History Dr. Illicia Sprey, "is a copper plate inscription from Kollam, India, which sheds a great deal of light on Indian Ocean maritime trade in the 9th century. It is considered by historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, sociologists,

and others as the most important epigraphic (inscription) source to come to light in some time."

Dr. Hall, one of the scholars involved in this research project, spoke about the copper plates, a legal document written at the port of Kollam in present-day Kerala in 849 CE. Although the Indian Ocean was among the first maritime spaces of exchange, scholars know surprisingly little about the world before the late 15th century CE when European powers – Portuguese, Spanish, English, Dutch and others – first sailed into this ocean.

A group of international scholars is working on transcribing and translating the copper plates and putting them into historical economic and

social context. Their work will be published in a volume in 2014 with Primus press.

The SJC Department of History and the Robinson Memorial Library is sponsoring an international traveling banner exhibit on the Kollam copper plates in the Library. The exhibit grew out of the international research effort on the project and was put together through grants from the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council by De Montfort University in Leicester, England in collaboration with the British Museum.

"SJC is in very good company in hosting this exhibit," says Dr. Sprey. SJC is the first to have it in the US. After being shown here

on campus, the exhibit travels to Ball State University; University of Science, Philadelphia; University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Texas, Austin. In the UK, the exhibit just ended its run at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University. It will go on to Jesus College, Oxford; the University of York; University of Durham - Oriental Museum and Cambridge University's Library.

In addition to the scholarly book about the inscription that will be published in 2014, the plan is to offer companion material from the National Geographic channel—namely two documentaries—each one-hour long. The first is on Arab ship-building in that time and the second is on sailing the treasure ship made in the first.

Dr. Sprey will find times when these documentaries can be shown for anyone interested. The documentaries can also be used in class.



*Photo courtesy of Christine Babick Saqui  
This copper plate inscription written in Kollam Indian tells researchers a great deal about trade around the Indian Ocean during the Medieval Period*



# SJC Choir Brings "Bellisima" Music to Italy

By Randee Portteus  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The SJC Concert Choir returned triumphantly to campus, many with souvenirs and lasting memories in tow. Since we cannot capture their voices on paper, the next best way to sum their trip was in photos. All photos courtesy of the SJC Choirs Facebook Page.



After celebrating Mass with Cardinal Burke at The Papal Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.



Group photo of almost all pilgrims at the Duomo of Naples - after their last Mass sung together.



Professor Ford directing the choir in a seemingly epic performance.



The choir poses in front of the Colosseum, Rome's historic amphitheater.

## Thanksgiving Traditions

By Kylie Hill  
Staff Writer

A timeless holiday in the United States, Thanksgiving has always been known as a day to gather with family and friends, have a feast, and celebrate what one is thankful for. At Saint Joseph's College, every student and their families have their own unique way of celebrating this historic day.

Whitney Schwartz, a Freshman Biology and Athletic Training major, states, "I go to my great aunt Joyce's. Then if I have time, I go to my dad's when we get back. My aunt cooks everything. We always have turkey. We usually have chicken and noodles, Mac and cheese, and sweet potato casserole. The rest usually varies." Stephanie Cradduck, a Freshman History major, shares her family's tradition as well: "...we all sit around the table and list things that we are thankful for." Some students have a much more intimate Thanksgiving. Danny Davis, a Sophomore Computer Science major says

"We gather the immediate family for a brunch." However, their food choices seem to fall in line with that of other students. Davis adds, "Typical foods: turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, deviled eggs, etc. Dad always cuts the turkey and sits at the head of the table... then we always have leftovers for dinner."

Other students expressed the importance of spending time and catching up with family during the holiday. Sophomore Kyle Hodge, a double Biology and Athletic Training major, tells us, "...My mom's brother and sister and their kids come over and we eat dinner and catch up on everything that has been happening in our

lives." A few students shared very simple explanations of their Thanksgiving traditions. Senior Alex Yong, a Computer Science major shares: "My traditions are pretty plain. We make dinner. We eat it. We always have rolls." Corey Dowds, a Senior English major, shares "I compete with my brother in a race to see who can seduce my sister first."

From grandmas' houses to aunts' houses, turkey to chicken, watching football to playing games, everyone has their own Thanksgiving Traditions. The students here at Saint Joseph's College embody this statement. Their traditions are as varied as their majors, and that makes them all the more special.



## Career Corner

### *The Art of the Interview*

By Carey Monroe  
Career Development Office

Lights! Camera...Showtime! Above all, you are meeting another human being, so be pleasant and polite. Offer a quick firm handshake, a sincere smile, and a "Very nice to meet you." Body language can speak as loudly as words. This may seem obvious, but sit up in your chair, and look and act interested! No matter how good your résumé or work samples, poor body language might convey that you're not really interested in the job or company, or that if hired, you wouldn't work hard or fit in with the rest of the staff.

Take a breath. Wait for your interviewer to take the lead, and then be attentive, polite and respectful.

Listen carefully; take time to answer intelligently. Blurtng conveys lack of self-control or preparation. Keep your answers brief, clear, positive, and relevant. Give supporting facts, figures, and results where possible. Avoid speaking negatively and/or blaming others. Most important, DON'T PANIC or LIE! Pause. Think. Answer truthfully and as best as you can. Some questions have no

right or wrong answers. They are more to help the interviewer gauge your thinking process, personality, and preferences. And no vulgarity. Period.

Good questions and comments convey your sincere interest in the job. However, save the questions about salary, bonuses, and other benefits. Unless first raised by the recruiter, they give the wrong impression in a first interview.

And suddenly it's over. Regardless of how it went, offer a firm handshake, a sincere smile, and thank the interviewer for their time. Stay professional until you've left the premises. If you're hired, terrific. If not, you're now better prepared for the next interview.

Follow these tips for a successful interview experience:

- Arrive 15 to 20 minutes early
- Collect your thoughts; focus
- Be pleasant, polite, positive
- Be confident, not arrogant
- Listen and answer carefully
- Ask intelligent questions
- Let the interviewer bring up the topic of money and perks
- Don't panic and don't lie
- Watch the body language
- Thank the interviewer

You can experience a mock interview and job search help at the career development office on campus in Halleck 200 or call 219-866-6116 for an appointment!

## Upcoming Puma Events!

- 12/4 Advent Reconciliation Service
- 12/5 Improv Show
- 12/7 Gallagher Charitable Society
- 12/7 Winter Formal
- 12/9-12/12 Finals Week (GOOD LUCK!)

Want to get the word out about your event? Email the date and name of your event to Randee Portteus at [rpt8460@saintjoe.edu](mailto:rpt8460@saintjoe.edu) or Jessica Ruschke at [jrt8465@saintjoe.edu](mailto:jrt8465@saintjoe.edu)!



# opinion

## Christ in Christmas?

**By Erik Benson**

*Opinions Writer*

You'll see it everywhere during the season, the veritable sales pitch for a number of conservatives churches and religious communities during the Christmas season: "Let's put the 'Christ' back in Christmas." With all the focus on purchasing "stuff" for other people, putting up decorations and overloading the radio waves with "Frosty the Snowman", they do have a point - the season has become more about appeasement with material goods than celebrating the commonly accepted birth of Christ. For every Nativity scene adorning a yard, it's safe to say that there are at least two other people who don't seem to care. It's a shame, at least in the eyes of

these conservative Christians.

But are the conservatives right? Should we be putting the "Christ" back in Christmas? Or is the idea of Christmas being for Christ outdated? Initially Christmas was a celebration of the birth of Christ, but it was not regarded as Christ's actual birthday, contrary to some common belief. December 25th is believed to be the date exactly nine months after Mary was told of the conception of Jesus, of which there is virtually no historical proof or validity. Also, the date of December 25th was at first only observed in Rome; extensions of Christianity further east celebrated it on January 6th (another Christian holiday known as Epiphany).

This is compounded with

the fact that the commonplace elements that come to mind when we think Christmas are all derived from Pagan rituals for the celebration of the winter solstice. These elements were adapted to Christmas when the Pagans were converted to Christianity. The Christmas Tree? Originally used to hang fruits and nuts for town beggars in Europe to have some kind of food. Gift-giving? Originally associated between those with legal relationships, such as landlord and tenant or employer and employee. Celebrations? Early festivals in the High Middle Ages encouraged unruliness, including gambling, promiscuity and drinking. Things contemporary Christmas doesn't associate with.

We've seen the Church step

back from a lot of older ideas in recent years - for Catholics, the move towards a more unified Mass and away from the original Latin, and for Protestants, shifts from traditional services to more contemporary ones, as well as opinions on hot-button issues. Should Christmas go in the same sense, then? In the 21st century, should we still be trying to keep the "Christ" in Christmas, or should we let it go as a connection of days long past, and instead see Christmas as a celebration of togetherness and joy with one another? Try giving it a thought this season. Just try it. You never know, you might see things in an entirely different way - conservative Christian or not.



(Above) Photo courtesy Google Images. You'll hear this a lot on Fox News.

## Come Back Core XI

**By Mike Sosnowski**

*Opinions Editor*

The very first thing I want to make clear is this is not about me whining for not having a bar on campus. No, I've done most of that in verbal tirades and putting that to paper would just be pathetic. So, while this article is about Core XI it is not about how much I miss it or how much it sucks to not have it around anymore. Rather, it's about why not having our bar around is more of a problem than just students having to spend more money on alcohol. I want to discuss substitutes to the issue.

Let's start with the bottom line of the issue: students at SJC drink, especially the Seniors. Who, I remind you, are of legal age to drink. Now, without Core XI a couple of things happen with this drinking. Namely, though, it moves. It moves both inward and outward. I can guarantee the amount of alcohol in the dorms has escalated this year. Likewise, the number of students that travel off campus to drink has increased. Now, I'm not saying that everyone that goes off campus drinks and drives, but all it takes is one to turn things disastrous. And no one wants that. Core XI was conceived to handle these issues.

There is something else that happens, and I admit it doesn't affect everyone, but it certainly is felt. Going to Core XI is a tradition for upperclassmen, especially seniors. Its absence has been felt this year. It was a place for us to bond and have fun. It was a reward for surviving Cores 9 and 10. But it was always common ground. Losing Core XI has been like losing Cheers. No one should lose their Cheers.

Now it is almost inconceivable that we will get the old Core XI space back. That's basically been confirmed and to hope for otherwise is a pipe dream. So what then? Well maybe we could utilize another space. Now I know you're immediate question: what space? Hear me out on this. I propose we sanction of a portion of the ballroom, similar to how they do during dances. I'm not asking for permanent residence there, maybe just biweekly if that's all that can be managed. Of course I have a habit of oversimplifying things, but it seems viable to me. After all bartenders can be trained, Sodexo doesn't have to run it, and as for storing the alcohol, I'm sure something can be found that only security would have access to. Honestly, I'm spitballing here, but I do hope that something is found for us. Core XI is sorely missed.



(Above) Photo courtesy of Mike Sosnowski: Transformations sums up the Core experience.

## Core 9 in Review

**By Joe Scott**

*Opinions Writer*

Core 9 is designed to give students a solid base of character in order to develop a person's world views for the rest of their life. It discusses the problem of evil and God's role in the world. I think it gives a student a good understanding of Christian Humanism and the means to live it.

I am not an outwardly religious person per-se. A lot of the religious material we learn about I am not very familiar with. The class does teach a good system of ethics and morals to live by. Obviously the doctrine taught is a Catholic one, but it is not as strict and uniform as you may think, but in my opinion it is a little repetitive. In my experience the views of all are attempted to be understood or at least respected. I am an international studies student myself, so I learn a lot from

hearing a diverse and different array of opinions.

Each student must write a manifesto on their world beliefs. I think a problem with this is some students might need more time to think about their own take on the world then the regimented time frame allows. I understand the idea and I like it on the whole, but I think some people need to go at their own pace with such an overreaching and complex issue like a complete system of individual beliefs.

Some of the theological materialis was pretty dense and I had to read over it a few times to make any real sense of it. Core 9 does not really hold your hand through the class and give the students more autonomy and independence in formulating their perspective views. It does take a little more focus and independent thought to work through the class; in that regard I think it can sometimes be a refreshing change of pace.



(Above) Photo courtesy of Google Images: Almost everyone knew your name at Core XI too

## Observer

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# Black Friday Shopping: Why?

**By Kristina Hemmerling**  
*Features Co-Editor*

My senior year of high school was my first time going Black Friday shopping. I had been one other time before then with my mom, but we went to one store at 5 AM, and I didn't have any fun or buy anything. My senior year was my first real time going. I went with my best friend, and we met up with some other people. We went to the mall at around 4 AM and were there for several hours. It was a mad house. I had never seen the mall so full at 7 AM on a Saturday. It was amazing how many deals there were at the department stores, and even some of the smaller stores had deals I couldn't resist.

I felt like such a mindless consumer, being up at all hours of the morning just to buy something a few dollars cheaper, but it was so much fun. I've gone every year since then, but this year I began to wonder why. The mall is still a madhouse, the deals are still

pretty good, and there are always random people there you don't expect to see. But this year, I didn't have as much fun.

In previous years, Black Friday was Black FRIDAY. Sales began super early in the morning, but it was definitely Friday. Five AM, 2 AM, midnight - the starting times for shopping have been pushed earlier and earlier each year. I didn't think it could get much earlier, but this year the stores proved me wrong. Eight PM, 6 PM, and even 4 PM - stores were open on Thanksgiving Day preventing workers from sharing a family meal and enticing many people to ditch their family time to instead buy gifts for family members.

I ask you, which is more important - having family time or buying things (maybe) for family (or mostly for yourself)?

I thought it was spending time together, but the shopping centers in my town didn't seem to think so. I was amazed. My friend and

I didn't leave for the mall until a little after midnight, but I thought of all the people who had opted to go shopping earlier in the day instead of hanging out with people they probably don't see too often.

This year felt weird, shopping at the mall with hundreds of other people. Why was I there? To save a few bucks on a gift here or there. I didn't miss out on any family - pretty much everyone had left my house by the time I went out. But still, just being there felt like I was supporting it.

Going out and shopping for four hours at 2 AM on Black Friday is one thing, but when you do the same at 6 PM on Thanksgiving Day, it's taking away something. The shoppers and workers that were at stores at those times didn't get the quality family time they should have on this government-started holiday. The holiday itself is about being thankful for what you have, so why ditch what you have to go

buy more stuff?

I'm not saying I didn't buy anything and I'm not saying everyone should boycott Black

Friday, but I do think we need to set our priorities straight here in America.

## Avril Lavigne's New Album Covers It All



**By Tabitha Blaisdell**  
*Staff Writer*

Avril Lavigne's new album has been released just in time for winter. Her pop vibrant trademark sound is certain to keep us happy and motivated during the long winter season. The album, which came out earlier this month, is her fifth album and her first self-titled album. In an interview with *Time*, Avril said her reason for self-titling this album was because of how diverse it is from all the others.

Being a loyal Avril Lavigne fan, I knew about this album several months prior to its release. As I was up for it as I was, I was also a bit skeptical of how it would turn out. After all, Avril Lavigne just married Nickelback front man Chad Kroeger, who then became a major producer of this album. Although I don't HATE the band Nickelback, you wouldn't catch me listening to them willingly. I feel like their songs always seem to have the same theme and the same repetitive

sound. So naturally, I worried that as a producer of Avril's album he'd influence that into Avril's music.

Thankfully, it didn't impact her negatively and that wasn't the outcome! Avril's music is just as good, maybe even better than ever! I LOVE her new album. She ties in all characteristics of her personality into it. Growing up, I watched Lavigne develop as an artist and saw a change of character throughout her albums.

She has a mix of sassy, flirty, fun, and emotional songs on this record, whereas her previous albums would only lean more towards one direction. Her fourth album, *Goodbye Lullaby* had a more mellow and emotional tone to it, while her third album, *The Best Damn Thing* mostly consisted of fun pop girl anthems. Her latest album is the perfect combination of the two! She even has a couple songs that remind you of Avril's much younger "Sk8er Boi" days. One of my favorite songs from her album

that exemplifies this vibe is "17." It's an upbeat song that reflects on her teenage days.

Along with "17," other favorites of mine include: "Hello Kitty," "Sippin' on Sunshine," "Hush Hush," and "Bad Girl."

"Hello Kitty" is a fast paced song inspired by the adorable and lovable cartoon character Hello Kitty. I might be a bit biased, considering I already have a Hello Kitty obsession. However, this song is honestly really neat. Avril incorporates Japanese into the song. It's such a cute song! It sounds like it could be the theme song for an animated Hello Kitty movie. Which, I for one would be in favor of.

"Sippin' on Sunshine" has a feel-good summer sound to it. Regardless of the season, it's a song that is radiating with happiness and positivity.

"Hush Hush" is an exquisite piano ballad that is beautifully sung and written. It's an especially soft song that has a soothing melody to it. Lastly, "Bad Girl" is one of the songs which make this album just as diverse as Avril says it is. "Bad Girl" features entrancing vocals by Marilyn Manson and has lyrics that are fairly explicit compared to how tame the rest of the album is. It brings an edgy rock and roll twist into the album.

So I realize that I've chosen almost half of the tracks off the album as my favorite, but I really can't pinpoint just a couple songs. This whole album is pure perfection. Listen and see for yourself!

*Image Upper Left: Here is the edgy cover for Lavigne's new self-titled album. As far as self-titled album covers go, this one is pretty self-explanatory. This album is by Avril Lavigne, here's a photo of her. Photo from Google Images.*

## The Book is Always Better

**By Randee Portteus**  
*Co-Editor-in-Chief*

Growing up, I was constantly in the library, combing through the shelves to find a new read. I would often simply wander the young adult room, never looking for anything in particular. This usually meant that I started at the A section and never quite made it to the Z's. One day, I must have started backwards, because I picked up Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*.

*The Book Thief* quickly pulled me in, despite my unfamiliarity with the author. I'd never heard of his former books, the most popular being *I Am the Messenger*. Zusak is Australian, and his books *The Underdog* and *Fighting Ruben Wolfe* were more popular there than in the U.S. *The Book Thief* was something different for Zusak, a historical narrative inspired by his parents' stories of growing up in Germany and Austria during World War II. The story follows Liesel, a little girl sent to live in a foster home to protect her from the horrors of Nazi Germany.

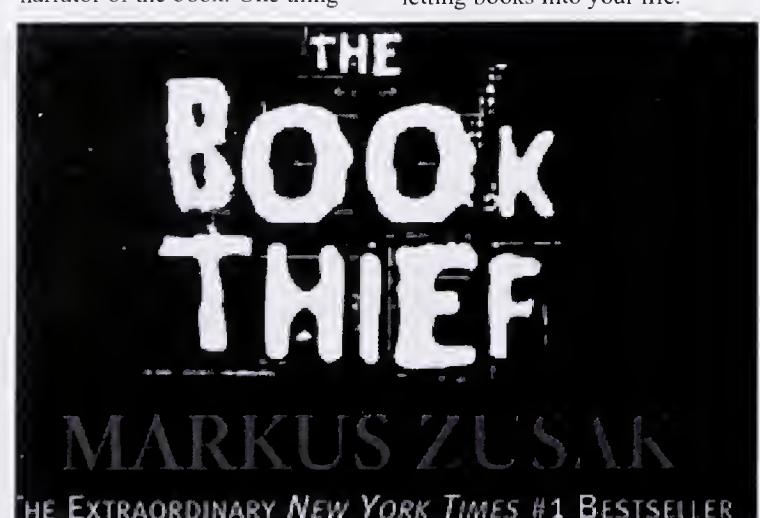
Unfortunately, it does not, and Liesel's life is plagued by Death, who also happens to be the narrator of the book. One thing

that saves Liesel is books - she steals one at the gravesite of a loved one early on in her life, and from then on, her love for books and words only grows. This love is encouraged by her foster father and other people who touch Liesel's life. Liesel's love of words and knowledge is rare and dangerous in Nazi Germany, but it grows as Liesel does, and it is an amazing thing to read about.

One of the things I liked most about this book was the theme of the power of words. Liesel early on has an appreciation for books, but she soon learns that words have a power all their own for good and for evil. She knows that they are dangerous, as she watches men senselessly slaughter other men because their leader told them to. She also sees the good that they can do, again a rarity in Nazi Germany.

If Liesel had been alive in the twenty-first century, I'm willing to bet she would have been scouring the library bookshelves for more reads with me.

They have now turned *The Book Thief* into a movie, and I am so nervous that they will ruin it. Wish me luck as I go see it! And pick up the book for yourselves. Like Liesel, you won't regret letting books into your life.



## Dexter Review With Some Amateur Philosophy

By Corey Dowds

I'm Real Crazy

Hello and goodbye Pumas! As we come back after Thanksgiving it will only be a handful of hours before we depart for our homes yet again. As I sit at my computer, I don't exactly know what this article is about. Thanksgiving break seems to not only melt one's body into a pile of trans and saturated fat, but it seems to melt the mind as well.

Not exactly sharp coming back for finals, but that is neither here nor there. A features article can be about anything, really, as long as it shows some kind of special interest or expertise in describing the alleged subject. So, on the surface my feature's article is about seasons 1-4 of former hit *Showtime* television show, *Dexter*, even at the risk of sounding dated (then again, we did have a *Fight Club* review about a decade too late, so I guess I'm not the first to go retro). However, underneath, I believe this article is an amateur philosophical piece on the interest that people take in each other's darkness. This "Dark Passenger" as it is referred to in *Dexter* is a particularly interesting subject, as it seems to not only rule his fictional life, but draw the attention of those in the real world throughout time.

It all seems to rhyme, when you really stop and examine everything. *Dexter* was first introduced to me by fellow

psychology students. It wasn't but a few weeks earlier that our very own teacher was describing how he decided to avoid shows like this altogether. He said he had enough exposure to this kind of character in the real world.

*Dexter* is about a man who lives a double life as a serial killer, so the morbidity is nearly tangible. My first inclination to my professor's resistance to such popular culture kind of raised questions in my mind. If he cannot handle any more morbid subject- then why can't everyone else get their fill of seemingly

evil incarnate? We can go through the list- perhaps the most notable in popular culture today is *The Walking Dead* and recently ended *Breaking Bad*. Two shows where we wait for our favorite characters to turn against each other in the shadow of the apocalypse, and where we watched the fate of our favorite evil chemistry teacher, respectively.

Of course the rhyme scheme does not end there. Other classes show that this kind of obsession is not just prone to our generation. In one other class in particular we picked up the very dense

*Wuthering Heights* and later *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Again, in the first piece of literature we have a man who destroys every person around him hell-bent on revenge, and in the other, we have a man destroyed by vanity incarnate. These flaws, the character's darkness, is what drives the story. Why are the protagonists throughout time so bad? What makes Batman so much more appealing than a perfect Superman?

My answer is one that conveniently brings things full circle. I asked the same

psychology teacher what he thought about some of my Core 9 subjects, more specifically the idea of evil. I told him that I did not believe "Evil" in and of itself existed, as some kind of satanic entity. That people are just a product of their circumstances, and therefore not in any more control of their actions than the Earth has control of its orbit. We all have our supermassive black hole that in some way or another ultimately shapes our orbit.

My professor's answer to evil mirrored my own mind. It was an answer that said evil, that the darkness that we are obsessed with, is capable of inhabiting anyone, even you. We as humans are capable of anything, and "bad" and "good" are interpretations.

Finally, this problem is wrapped up by yet another class (man, I am giving a hard pat-on-the-back to liberal arts education). My professor said that novels (or for the sake of this article, stories in general) are good when you can truly empathize with their characters. "There but for the grace of God, go I," is what he said, meaning that you know who that character is because he was meant to reflect some small part in you. So do you think you have a piece of Walter White in you? Do you believe that Daniel Plainview exists in your heart? Because I do. Oh, By the way, seasons 1-4 of *Dexter* were pretty good.



As the series protagonist, Dexter uses his social life as cover for his night time activities, vigilante justice.

## Marshall Mathers LP 2

By Reid Brazel  
Features Writer

We have a real treat of a review for you today. Eminem has returned, and music couldn't be happier. *The Marshall Mathers LP 2* might not win any awards for a creative title, but the content couldn't be better. It starts off with the song "Bad Guy." How this song isn't already topping the radio charts I don't know, however what I do know is that lyrically and sound-wise it takes us right back to Eminem's unapologetic anger. The stuff that made Marshall Mathers more than the average street punk spitting rhymes is back. Moving on to "Rhyme and Reason" we have more of the brilliant lyricism that can only be produced by Marshall Mathers with a timeless classic rock sample that I refuse to spoil.

"So Much Better" goes back to the Eminem that many identify with, a man who really just hates his love partner. He speaks to the masses with this because everyone who has relationship problems can probably identify with these feelings. The album quickly goes to "Survival," which is easily my favorite song, on the album. The raw energy behind it means that every single DJ, including myself, will add it to their latest set lists.

Basically, the album is absolute Marshall Mathers Gold, and if you haven't listened to it by now you're probably living under a rock. If you have yet to even hear of Eminem, this is a great

place to start. Almost everything this man has ever put out has been Gold, and Em is finally back to the point that he is putting out what he wants to put out again. It's a beautiful thing when an artist finally brings his career full circle.

There has also been talk that this is Eminem's last album. As a music freak, I would be very disappointed with this, but I could definitely see it. Eminem is getting old- he's on the wrong side of 40 and producers are starting to notice that he isn't identifying with the kids anymore. Honestly, I think this viewpoint is insane because the millenials

that grew up with Shady definitely don't want to see him go. Personally, I think Eminem will be back for this simple reason. He's going to get bored. His daughter is raised and older, and he's going to need something to do. Eminem isn't going anywhere soon.

We may be closing in on the end of an era, but I don't think Eminem is done yet. Your SJC music snob gives the *Marshall Mathers LP 2* a 10/10. It is an amazing album, and you need to hear it. This potentially could be album of the year, and any music lover would be doing themselves a disservice not to listen to it.



Marshall Mathers LP 2- the album avid Eminem fans have been waiting years for. This cover is strikingly similar to it's part 1, wonder what the message is.

## Why Repeat on Thanksgiving?



By Kristina Hemmerling  
Features Co-Editor

For some reason, the people that run the television programs think that people on Thanksgiving Day have nothing better to do than watch the same thing over and over and over. Last year, some random TV channel played movie classic *Gone With the Wind* on repeat- all day long. That movie is around five hours long, and I saw different parts of it about three times during the day. I had never seen it before then, so it was nice to catch finally. But this channel or network or whatever played literally nothing else from 10 AM to 10 PM on Thanksgiving Day.

This year was much the same, only the classic film played was *The Godfather* parts 1 and 2. I've seen bits and pieces of all three movies, but never have I sat

down and watched the full thing. I still haven't. My dad said that if I wanted to know half of what guys say, I need to watch *The Godfather* because all guys quote it all the time.

Useful advice, I'm sure, but I haven't taken it yet. The one question that fills my mind is why a television network thinks it's necessary to play the same movie over and over and over on Thanksgiving. It's the only day each year that I've ever noticed this happening. Maybe people just keep the TV on all day without actually watching and so having the same movie on repeat doesn't bother anyone, but I feel like there has to be an actual reason. If anyone knows it, let me know.

Image above: The Godfather- classic movie that all guys love. For some reason, this Thanksgiving TV decided it was a good idea to show it all day. I didn't actually watch, so why do it?!

# Men's Basketball Travels to Alabama

By Katie Guernsey

Sports Editor

Over Thanksgiving Break, the men's basketball team traveled to Alabama to compete in the Florida Southern Tournament. There they played number 22 ranked University of North Alabama and Stillman College.

In the first match up, the Pumas fought hard, but ultimately fell to the Lions (5-1) 84-68.

Top contributors for the Pumas included Jon Smith who ended with nine rebounds and 18 points, Cameron Vines who had eight rebounds and 16 points, and Maiscei Grier with 15 points from the bench.

The next game against Stillman College was fast paced and high scoring, the final score with the Pumas falling just short at 113-97.

The Stillman College Tigers came out ahead initially before the Pumas fired each other up to come back and tie the game.

In the beginning of the second half the Pumas went on an exciting 15-2 run, controlling the pace for a few minutes before the Tigers took back over to go up three points.

The Pumas did not give up, however, and kept fighting. Vines came through this game for the Pumas despite their final loss, ending with a double-double, 40 points and 11 rebounds. Smith finished with nine points and 14



*The men's basketball team goes on a team run through town.  
Photo courtesy SJC Basketball Twitter page.*

rebounds. Grier contributed 15 points while David Hill played a great game with a total of 10 points, six assists, and five rebounds.

The Pumas hope to end this

three game losing streak against Purdue University North Central and then against Bethel College on December 14th, both at home. While their record so far does not look impressive, the Pumas

have played many hard fought games and nearly come out on top. The preseason tournaments should give them what they need as they head into the regularly scheduled season.

## Volleyball Ends with 4 GLVC Wins

By Ken Badylak

Sports Information Director

Puma volleyball ended their season with a final record of 11-21, going 4-14 in GLVC play with their four wins coming against William Jewell College, McKendree University, the University of Illinois Springfield, Kentucky State University, and Maryville University.

At their last home game, the Pumas played number 21 Truman

State.

The Lady Pumas gave a spirited effort against No. 21 Truman State University on Sunday afternoon, but fell 3-0. SJC lost the first and third sets 26-24 in front of a raucous crowd, thanks to the football team and other student supporters.

SJC kept a two point lead through most of the first set, but the Bulldogs (19-9, 12-3 GLVC) with the steady attack of Meghan Zimmerman to Allie Brak picked up a 26-24 victory. The Bulldogs

jumped-out to 11-3 lead in the second set and coasted to 25-13 win.

The Pumas again took early control of the third set. SJC held a two-to-three point lead for most of the set. However, TSU made scoring difficult once SJC reached 21 points. A few service aces and a late block closed-out the Pumas 26-24.

A trio of Pumas reached eight kills on the afternoon. Erin Hyland hit .269 as she only committed one error in

26 attempts. Katherine Brown also finished with eight kills as did Abby Puckett. Megan Sturm finished with 27 assists while Alyssa Guarnaccia recorded 13 digs.

Their penultimate match was a close one, but they lost a dramatic five set match to Bellarmine University.

SJC held an attacking percentage of .237, but it was not enough to pick-up a Great Lakes Valley Conference victory.

The Pumas rolled through the first set as Abby Puckett collected five kills in the frame, including the decisive tally. The Knights (15-12, 9-8 GLVC) escaped a charging SJC team in the second set 25-22.

The third set, like the entire match remained tight throughout as SJC earned a 2-1 lead after a Puckett kill that swung the frame to Pumas 25-23. The Knights controlled the early moments of the fourth set as the back-and-forth battle continued. Erin Hyland gave SJC a 25-24 lead in the set, but the Knights won the last three points to even the match, 2-2.

SJC was the first team to reach eight points in the fifth frame as

## Upcoming Events

### December 14th

Men's Basketball  
vs. Bethel College  
3:00 p.m.

### December 17th

Women's Basketball  
@ Ursuline College  
5:00 p.m.

### December 18th

Men's Basketball  
@ Kentucky Wesleyan College  
7:30 p.m.

### December 19th

Women's Basketball  
@ Walsh University  
5:00 p.m.

### December 21st

Men's Basketball  
vs. Holy Cross College  
3:00 p.m.

### January 3rd

Men's and Women's Basketball  
@ Drury University  
5:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.

### January 5th

Men's and Women's Basketball  
@ Missouri S&T  
1:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m.

### January 9th

Men's and Women's Basketball  
vs. William Jewell College  
5:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.

Peyton McKenzie produced back-to-back aces, giving the Pumas a 8-6 lead. Hyland extended the lead to 9-6, but BU recorded four consecutive kills after a SJC service error to take an 11-9 lead.

Katherine Brown pulled SJC to 13-11 with a kill, but the Knights closed-out the match shortly thereafter with a 15-11 victory. The Pumas doubled-up Bellarmine on the blocks as SJC collected eight blocks on the night.

Four players reached double figures in kills with Anna Sacco and Peyton McKenzie each recording 14. Sacco hit .275 on the night and tallied five block assists. Erin Hyland added 13 kills. Abby Puckett finished 12 kills while Megan Sturm added 54 assists.

The team graduates five seniors, pictured on their senior night on the left.



*The seniors line up with coaches.  
From left to right: Assistant Coach Steven Peek, Casey Phillips, Abby Puckett, Katherine Brown, Alyssa Guarnaccia, Alyson Krips, and head coach Jill Schopieray.*

# Football Wins Season Ender

**By Katie Guernsey**  
*Sports Editor*

Football season has been over for a couple of weeks, but the last victory should still be fresh on all Pumas minds.

The last game of the season was against William Jewell College, and in the beginning it seemed that the Pumas were going to have a hard time, going down 28-0.

The Pumas didn't give up though, and they came back to win 37-31 in overtime.

With only eight minutes left, the Pumas were down 31-14, but the game was in the hands of junior quarterback Tate Borlick, and he handled the pressure well.

Borlick made a 29 yard touchdown pass to Julian Walker, and then created another 80-yard drive in less than two minutes. He found EJ Woody with a 21-yard touchdown pass with over three minutes left in the game.

The Pumas were still down,



though, but thanks to Andrew Soulis and the Puma defense we regained possession. With no timeouts left, the game turned into a nailbiter, but the Pumas managed to pull it out with a field

goal from Gavin Voss.

Kobi Cook finished with 104 yards on 22 carries, with two touchdowns. Shelton had 85 yards and 17 carries, with one touchdown.

Borlick completed 26 of 48 passes for 263 yards and two touchdowns. Julian Walker had eight catches for 96 yards and one touchdown. Gary Yeoman, on the defensive side, completed the

game with eight tackles, two for a loss, and an interception.

This season was much improved for the Pumas, finishing 8-3, their best record since the 2006 season. The senior class, pictured here, finished their careers 21-21. Braxton Shelton achieved a 1,000 yard season, being only the fifth running back in St. Joe history to accomplish this. The St. Joe defensive team tied a school record with 35 sacks in a single season.

The seniors will be sorely missed, but the Puma student body looks forward to next season after what was accomplished this season.

*Seniors pose for a last picture together of the season. Pictured left to right: Billy VandeMerkt, Ryan Laubauskas, Jensen Nowakowski, Jose Lopez, Tony Gallinatti, Patrick Robinson, John Fredrick, and Cody Sprayberry.*  
Photo courtesy Facebook.

## Women's basketball

**By Bisrat Desta**  
*Sports Editor*

It is clear that the chemistry between the Lady Pumas this year is much better than it has been in prior years. Coming off a season where there was not much winning, the Pumas are already headed in the right direction.

Their first loss came from Northwood University at the GLVC/GLIAC Challenge, falling barely short 81-72. Their last game in the GLVC/GLIAC Challenge proved to be even closer, losing by two points on a buzzer beater despite coming back in the second half after being down 17 points.

Having started the season off with a win against Central State University, they looked to improve their record against Malone University. The matchup seemed to be a tough task for the Pumas as they fell to the Pioneers 82-59.

The Pioneers who are undefeated (3-0) at the moment

proved to be too much for Saint Joe.

Malone jumped out to a quick lead in the first half and never looked back. Jumping on the Pumas early in the first half seemed to be the game plan for the Pioneers as they led 11-2 within the first four minutes of the game. The Pumas would claw their way back into the game though and tie it up midway through the first half. The Pioneers would then make a run of their own and finish the first half with a 14-1 spurt. The half with end with Malone up seven.

The second half was not friendly to the Pumas as the Pioneers added on to the lead and won the game by 23 points. Although it seems like a lopsided loss it does not show the effort that the Pumas displayed out on the court. Senior Tonisha Sanders was a big factor in the game scoring 16 points in 27 minutes. Saint Joseph's also got good contribution from senior Jasmyne



*Junior Kiki Lyons returns as the Lady Puma's point guard.*

*Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.*

Reynolds as she was second in the scoring column with 14 points.

The Pumas shot 35 percent from the field which eventually caught up to them. On the other

side of the bench, Malone had a hot shooting day as they converted on 60 percent of their shots. Saint Joe will take on Kentucky Wesleyan College on

December 2nd here at F. Scharf Alumni Field House at 6pm.

## Puma Athlete Profile: Jordan Peterson

**By Brendon Varallo**  
*Sports Staff Writer*

**Jordan is a junior double major in Finance and Economics from Chesterton, Indiana.**

If something "goes without saying," why do people still say it?

"To get acknowledgment that they heard you say it."

Which bad habits drive you

crazy?

"Not cleaning up after yourself and smacking your lips while eating."

**How much time do you spend on: Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube?**

"7 hours a week."

**What is something you're afraid of?**

"Failure."

**Can you get cornered in a round room?**

"Yes, by multiple people."

**What's the one thing you'd**

**rather pay someone to do than do yourself?**

"Daily housekeeping activities."

**If the number 2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still number 2?**

"The same reason famous women don't change their name when they get married."

**Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?**

"Because people still walk up to drive up ATMs."

**double cheeseburger, large fries, onion rings, etc., and then top it off with a diet soda?**

"They like the taste of diet soda."

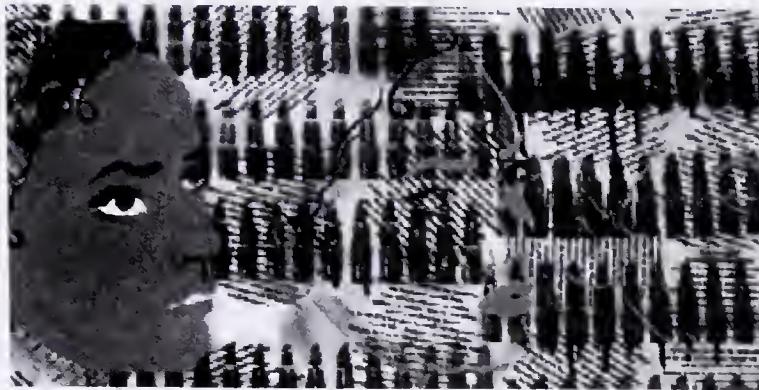
**How is it that "Fat Chance" and "Slim Chance" mean the same thing?**

"Fat chance is almost always interpreted as the opposite of slim chance."

Know someone that deserves the spotlight? Let us know! E-mail their name and sport to [kgt8533@saintjoe.edu](mailto:kgt8533@saintjoe.edu).



# Creative Corner



## Cracked By Nicole Thomsen

The last few nights I've had the same dream or nightmare about a horse. I'm at a carnival or maybe a circus-- I can't really tell the difference; the colors are so vivid. There are greens, like summer-grass-that-is-watered-everyday-even-in-a-drought-greens. They're alive and the sky is bright and it's blue but not a normal blue. It's blue like when-I-was-twelve-and-we-went-to-Hawaii-and-I-saw-the-water-for-the-first-time-and-it-was-so-bright-and-see-through-and-aqua-and-blinding-but-I couldn't look-away-blue. I'm with my best friend, Rachel; we walk side by side. But I'm texting, and I don't remember the first text I sent but I can feel myself waiting. I want the reply to come, I want to stop waiting.

That's when I notice my horse. She is tall, strong, she knows me very well, and we have chemistry. She's in a tent; the tent is striped in all different colors, lemon, candy apple red, citrus orange, blueberry, raspberry, blackberry, and kiwi! Normally I like the colors, but in this dream they are too vibrant; they remind me of acid-- a bad trip. I look at the pulsating tent, and I know my horse is in there. I can't see her; I just know.

There's a giant Dijon honey mustard yellow slide only it's brighter-- like a bottle of hotdog mustard. It's repulsive. I can smell it, and I want to gag. I want to be away from it. I can't see the germs but have this feeling that it's infested in them. Rachel and I quickly walk by it. I don't hesitate to throw back the curtain of the tent. I see my horse and a man in a long white coat.

My phone goes off; it's Mason. He's angry with me; the text doesn't say so, but I know he is. He's asked me to go to his game. For some reason I have plans. I don't know what they are, but I know I have them. I have to get rid of the plans so I can go to his hockey game. But I can't cancel the plans. I just can't, and I don't even know what they are but I can't cancel them.

I look at Rachel and I don't have to speak. No one speaks in my entire dream except the doctor in the white coat standing next to my horse. Rachel already knows, I don't how but I know she just knows. She throws her head back and laughs. She's obsessed with my love triangle: me, my boyfriend Joe, and Mason. I know she thinks I'm crazy for wanting to go to the game, but I know she'll go. She knows she'll go too. I make her life more interesting, and she keeps me sane. If there were no her there'd be no me, there'd be no dream.

Suddenly the room becomes still. I forget about my plans, I forget about Mason and I hear an echo, someone is screaming below water. But there's no water. It's the man in the white coat, the doctor, he's talking to me, and his expression is suspicious. I don't like him. I don't know why, but I know I don't like him. He keeps talking; his words seem sly. It's the way he says them, except I can't hear them they still sound under water. Holy tits. His words ripple, they are under an invisible layer of water. I can watch them echo, strange to not hear words but to see them, there are no letters just sound, movements of sound.

My stomach drops, Rachel is gone. Why is she gone? I want her back, but I don't know where to find her. She's evaporated—poof! Into thin air. It's me and the doctor and my horse in the tent. Then I see him, the wolf. He's grey, dark charcoal with hints of lavender grey, he's prowling, and I can see his legs near the exam table. He wants my horse. He can't have her, I won't let him. I grab the reins on my horse and force her out. She doesn't want to go. I have to tell her she needs to, but I don't know how. I place her face in my hand and bring it to mine, our foreheads touch, they exchange information; she knows; now she knows she has to come.

We leave the tent; people are running frantically in all directions. I don't know which way to go. I want to jump on my horse and have her run but I don't. I'm scared to ride her. What if he gets her because I slow her down? The wolf! He's on top of a trailer he's looking at us; he wants my horse. I look at her; she's beautiful. She's auburn brown and the hair on her mane is black. I don't have to speak-- she knows what I'm thinking. I pat her back and nod my head in the direction I want her to go. She takes off.

The wolf looks at me now. He's excited. It's a game to him. He's no longer interested in my horse. He wants me. And for some reason I want him. I want him to come; I want him to catch me. He'll bite me. Rip my skin open and nibble on the pieces. But I don't care. My phone goes off again, it's Mason. His game is starting, I should be there. I need to be there. But I have plans. Plans I don't know of but I know I have them, and I have the wolf. And the plans. And the wolf is coming. And my phone is going off. And I can see the ice rink and the wolf is closer and—

Beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, and I'm awake. I'm in a room, my boyfriend's-- now ex-boyfriend's room-- Jay's room. He's sound asleep. I grab my phone, no texts. Mason was only in the dream. I shut my eyes, but I am awake now. I'm curious now. It's been a month already, maybe two, since the last time we talked. I wonder if he's forgiven me yet. Three years have gone by. I'm still promising to be single; he's still waiting.

I wonder if he would respond if I texted him? I don't have it in me to try. I wonder when his next game is. Maybe I'll go? What if Jay found out? He won't. I don't really care if he does. I'll go and I'll lean against the glass and I'll watch and maybe he'll see me and maybe he won't. But if he does, he'll know, he'll know I was there, that I'll always be there..

I want to go back into my dream and let the wolf have me. I want to go away to the quiet dark corner of my mind that only I know about and stay there forever. The place where the wolf is waiting. The place where I don't hurt Mase, the place where Jay doesn't exist. The place that lies between me and awake.

## Slippery Slope of Seduction By Gloria Leonard

Everyone wants to be loved  
No one wants to be alone.  
Luck you, I'm willing  
To throw a dog a bone.

You wear bruises under sleeves  
Where your heart once lived.  
What's a little pain when  
You're about to feel revived?

I can make you forget,  
I can make you believe:  
Everything will be alright  
The moment that you taste me.

Take me in your arms,  
Unwrap me.  
There are places to go,  
We've got things to see.  
Take me with your tongue  
Suck on me gently.  
I'm going to keep you wanting more;  
You'll never want to leave me.



*Painting by Nicole Thomsen*

## You By Chet Tumbo

Whenever I think about letting in someone new,

I always think about who was past due.

The one I believed that got away

was actually just plain grey.

She dug her hooks in me-- I was fish,  
all opened mouth and out of breath.

Star struck for ages,

she had me stoned with her grace.

After everything was said and done,  
I knew that she really wasn't the one.

Feelings like that hold a while with you,  
no matter how much you lie and say it isn't true.

Her face still burned in my mind,  
but you came from behind.

You smiled at me and I was done,  
you had me caught under your thumb.

Your voice,  
your wink,  
your poise,  
your feet

everything about you makes me think.

Why are you making such an impact on me,  
when half the time you drive me crazy?

It must be your smile,

your lips,  
your style,  
your hips;

because everything about you drives me wild.



*Pen & Ink Drawing by Samantha Rains*

## The Bean Sprout By Katie Davisson

Do you remember the time

When I was assigned to take care of that bean sprout  
And it was placed in a cup  
With some soil in the bottom?

It was only for a weekend,  
A few days I had to keep it alive  
But I had to fly to Florida  
And attend my grandmother's funeral

So you said you would take care of it  
And you said that you did  
You watered it everyday  
And even put it by the window

You were there when I got off the plane  
And the styrofoam cup was in your hand  
The sprout was all shriveled and brown  
You had done a horrible job

So the first thing I did  
Was walk straight into your arms  
Finally allowed to not be strong anymore  
And at that moment I realized

I needed you  
Even if  
You killed  
My plants.

